

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, TU, GR
SUBJECT: CAGLAYANGIL STATEMENT ON GOT FOREIGN POLICY

FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL, IN A SPECIAL INTERVIEW APPEARING IN
TERCUMAN JANUARY 11, ADDRESSED AT SOME LENGTH THE QUESTION
OF FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION AND EXECUTION BY THE FOUR-PARTY
COALITION GOVERNMENT. IN LIGHT OF THE CONFUSION OFTEN CAUSED
BY THE COALITION PARTNERS' SOMETIMES CONTRADICTIONARY FOREIGN
POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS, WE ARE QUOTING BELOW FAIRLY
EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM THAT INTERVIEW.

BEGIN QUOTE
IT IS TO BE REMEMBERED THAT THERE WAS A GOVERNMENT CRISIS TWO
YEARS AGO; FOLLOWING THE PROLONGATION OF THE CRISIS, FOUR
PARTIES CAME TOGETHER. THESE FOUR PARTIES IN FACT HAD VERY
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DIFFERENT IDEAS ON TOPICS LIKE CYPRUS, THE COMMON MARKET,
GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. LET
US TAKE CYPRUS, FOR IOSTANCE. THE FOUR PARTIES HOLD VERY DIFFERENT
AND EVEN CONTRADICTIONARY OPINIONS ABOUT IT. VARIED VIEWS ABOUT
THE BEST SOLUTION HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED, (RANGING) FROM TAKING
THE WHOLE ISLAND TO PARTITION. BUT WHEN THEY FORMED THE
GOVERNMENT, THE PARTIES TRIED TO FOCUS THEIR VIEWS ON A COMMON

POINT. THAT POINT COVERS THE DESIRE OF NONE OF THEM, PERHAPS,
BUT IS COMPOSED OF ELEMENTS OF WHICH THEY ALL DESIRE...
WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM SAY ABOUT THE CYPRUS
PROGRAM? IT SAYS, "OUR GOVERNMENT WILL FOLLOW A POLICY
WHICH WILL INSURE THE SECURITY AND THE FUTURE OF THE
TURKISH COMMUNITY IN CYPRUS. THIS POLICY WILL BE SOLVED
THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS." IT STATES THE METHOD AND SETS THE RULE
THAT "IT WILL BE SOLVED BY A FEDERAL SYSTEM BASED ON TWO ZONES"...
(THE PROGRAM) SHOWS THE OBJECTIVE AND THE DIRECTION. I
AM THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO IS DESIGNATED TO CARRY IT OUT.
I TAKE THE PROGRAM AND CARRY IT OUT ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, BEING UNITED IN A GOVERNMENT DOES
NOT MEAN THAT THE FOUR SEPARATE PARTIES HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR
OWN DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS. THESE PARTIES ARE PRESERVING
THEIR VIEWS. SHOULD ANY OF THE PARTIES COME TO POWER ALONE
ONE DAY, EACH PARTY WILL CERTAINLY WANT TO TAKE (A DECISION)
ACCORDING TO ITS OWN VIEWS. BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE,
SO THE POINTS THEY AGREED ON HAVE BEEN THE POLICY OF THE
GOVERNMENT. IN VIEW OF THIS,
THEY CAN MAKE STATEMENTS TO
UPHOLD THEIR OWN THESES AND VIEWS. THIS SHOULD NOT BE THOUGHT
STRANGE. SINCE THE CHAIRMAN OF A PARTY ALSO HOLDS A TITLE
IN THE GOVERNMENT, THESE STATEMENTS ARE BEING CRITICIZED.
IT IS BEING DEBATED WHETHER OR NOT (THE STATEMENTS) ARE IN
THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT. IN REALITY, THE RIGHT TO MAKE
BINDING STATEMENTS IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT ON GENERAL
FOREIGN POLICY RESIDES WITH TWO PEOPLE: THE PRIME MINISTER AND
THE FOREIGN MINISTER...
THE DESIRABLE THING IS FOR THOSE WITH OFFICIAL TITLES NOT
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TO DROP THEIR CAUTION ABOUT STAYING WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT
PROGRAM ON SUCH
TOPICS. BUT THERE IS NO RULE TO PREVENT
ACTING AGAINST THIS. ESPECIALLY AS ELECTIONS APPROACH,
POLITICAL PARTIES ARE INCLINED TO SOME OF THE BASIC
POINTS THEY WISH TO KEEP ALIVE. HOWEVER, THESE VIEWS ARE
NOT BINDING ON THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL THEY ARE BROUGHT UP
WITH A DEMAND FOR A REVISION OF THE PROGRAM. WE ARE NOT
AT THAT POINT...ON ANY SUBJECT SET OUT IN THE GOVERNMENT
PROGRAM...
IF THE STATEMENTS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXCEED THE
GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, IF THEY ARE NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE
PROGRAM, THEN IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS
INCONSISTENT..BUT AS THE STATEMENTS AND FOREIGN POLICY
ACTIVITIES ARE PUBLIC AND THESE ACTIVITIES REMAIN WITHIN
THE PROGRAM, ONE CANNOT SAY THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE
GOVERNMENT IS INCONSISTENT...
NO PARTY HAS SACRIFICED ITS BASIC AIMS AND EACH HAS SHOWN CARE
TO PUT ITS

MAIN OBJECTIVES IN THE PROGRAM. FOR EXAMPLE, EVERY PARTY BELIEVES THAT " THE AIM OF CYPRUS POLICY IS TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC LIFE AND CONDITIONS AND TO INSURE THE FUTURE OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY." THE REAL AIM COMES OUT. THE REST IS A MATTER OF NUANCE. AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED OVER THESE NUANCES ACCORDING TO THE POLITICAL CONDITIONS OF THE AY AND THE STRUCTURAL CONDITIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE.

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